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# As more children die from fentanyl, some prosecutors are charging their parents with murder

**SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) —** Madison Bernard climbed into bed before dawn with her toddler, Charlotte, who was asleep next to a nightstand strewn with straws, burned tinfoil and a white powder. Hours later, the mother woke and found her daughter struggling to breathe, according to investigators who described the scene in court documents. After being rushed in an ambulance to a hospital, the 15-month-old girl died from a fentanyl overdose. Her mother and father, whom authorities said brought the drugs into their California home, were charged with murder and are awaiting trial. The couple has pleaded not guilty but are part of a growing number of parents across the U.S. being charged amid an escalating opioid crisis that has claimed an increasing number of children as collateral victims.

**Continued on Page 2**



In this photo released by the Santa Rosa Police Department, investigators collect evidence from the home of Evan Frostick and Madison Bernard, the parents of a 15-month-old toddler found unresponsive in a bedroom in Santa Rosa, Calif., on May 9, 2022. Associated Press

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SINGER  
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**THURSDAY**  
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SINGER  
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# As more children die from fentanyl, some prosecutors are charging their parents with murder

Continued from Front

Some 20 states have so-called "drug-induced homicide" laws, which allow prosecutors to press murder or manslaughter charges against anyone who supplies or exposes a person to drugs causing a fatal overdose. The laws are intended to target drug dealers. In California, where the Legislature has failed to pass such laws, prosecutors in at least three counties are turning to drunk driving laws to charge parents whose children die from fentanyl overdose. It's a unique approach that will soon be tested in court as the cases head to trial. Supporters of the ramped-up enforcement say that by now those who use the synthetic opioid know the lethality of the drug and, like drunk drivers, they should know the consequences of exposing their children to their actions.

Critics say the parents didn't intend to kill their children but instead made poor choices because of their addictions and are being further punished instead of being offered help.

The debate comes as the country battles with how to effectively diminish the use of the highly accessible and extremely deadly drug.

Authorities believe some of the children died after touching something with the powdery substance and then touching their eyes or mouth. In one case, the drug may have been on the hands of a parent who prepared the baby's bottle. The drug is not absorbed into the skin but experts say it can be lethal if as little as 2 milligrams, about the weight of a mosquito, enters the body.

"These are tragic cases because drug addiction has destroyed a precious life and the parents face the consequences of their reckless actions," said Charlie Smith, the top prosecutor in Frederick County, Maryland, and president of



**Evan Frostick, left, and Madison Bernard, right, both charged with murder and child cruelty in the death of their daughter, Charlotte Frostick, appear before a judge on Sept. 1, 2022, at the Sonoma County Superior Court in Santa Rosa, Calif.**

Associated Press

the National District Attorneys Association.

Parents also can face charges if young children become seriously ill or die from crack, heroin and cocaine, but such cases are rare because a sizeable amount must be ingested, Smith said.

"This is really a first in the history of our country because we have a drug on the streets that can potentially kill you instantly with a minor amount of product," Smith said.

Prosecutors have a difficult decision to make when determining whether to charge parents, but Smith said the goal is to deter others from doing the same.

He prosecuted a case in which parents in Maryland were convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the 2020 death of their 2-month-old son. The Mount Airy couple had mixed fentanyl in the same bathroom where they prepared bottles for their infant.

Jeremy Whitney Frazier and Heather Marie Frazier were each sentenced in December to five years in prison and five years of supervised probation.

The National District Attorneys Association doesn't track how many parents have been charged for exposing their children to fentanyl, but news reports and interviews with prosecutors show such cases have been on the rise since the onset of the pandemic.

Last month, a Maine woman pleaded guilty to manslaughter after her 14-month-old son's fentanyl overdose. Investigators found fentanyl on a blanket and sheet where Ashley Malloy's son Karson had been sleeping.

States such as Maryland that don't have "drug-induced homicide" laws often charge parents with manslaughter, Smith said. In California, prosecutors have turned to a drunk driving law.

Prosecutors in Riverside, Sonoma and Stanislaus counties have charged parents with murder based on the "Watson advisement," a formal statement signed by anyone convicted of a DUI charge who says they understand driving under the influence can injure or kill people. The statement can be used against them

if they cause another fatal, DUI-related crash.

"I've been a prosecutor 25 years now and I can't recall any other drug that has led to this much destruction and death," Riverside County Deputy District Attorney Daima Calhoun said.

Prosecutors say the parents, like drunk drivers, knew fentanyl can injure or kill people.

Among those awaiting a trial that will test the approach are Tehra Alexandra Waite and Collin Pascal Kittrell, both of Riverside. The boyfriend and girlfriend were charged with murder after their toddler died of a fentanyl overdose in June 2020. They pleaded not guilty.

Investigators said their 14-month-old daughter, Allison, likely touched her mouth or eyes after coming in contact with the drug, which was found on several things in their apartment, including the couch. Detectives testified that when Waite found her daughter unresponsive she rushed to a pharmacy to buy naloxone, a drug used to reverse an opioid

overdose. The couple did not call 911 until hours later when Allison started having trouble breathing.

The girl's paternal grandmother also said in court documents that Waite used drugs while she was pregnant.

The Associated Press sought comment from multiple attorneys who have represented Waite and none responded. Her father declined to comment.

Kittrell's attorney, Graham Donath, said Allison's father did not intend for his child to die and the charge should be one of child neglect, not murder. But prosecutors don't like to go that route because the maximum sentence for the offense is 12 years.

In Sonoma County, where Charlotte slept with her mom in a messy apartment in Santa Rosa, first responders testified at a preliminary hearing that they found fentanyl in powder form on a nightstand next to the bed.

Ryan Hughes, a Santa Rosa Police Department narcotics detective, told the court they also found text messages showing the couple was concerned about losing their daughter because of their drug use, the Santa Rosa Press Democrat reported.

A judge is expected to set a trial date at a Sept. 11 hearing for Charlotte's mother, Bernard, who woke up to find her daughter struggling to breathe, and her father, Evan Frostick.

Defense attorneys for Bernard and Frostick and Frostick's parents all declined to comment when contacted by the AP. Bernard's stepmother did not respond to phone messages seeking comment.

"They need to be held accountable under the law because they allowed harm to come to their children and they let their drug use and addiction outweigh taking care of their children and keeping their children safe," Sonoma County District Attorney Carla Rodriguez said. □



# Nancy Pelosi says she'll seek House reelection in 2024, dismissing talk of retirement at age 83

By LISA MASCARO  
AP Congressional Correspondent

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Friday announced she will seek reelection to Congress in 2024 as Democrats try to win back the majority, saying "democracy is at stake."

Pelosi, 83, made the announcement before volunteers and labor allies in the San Francisco area district she has represented for more than 35 years.

"Now more than ever our City needs us to advance San Francisco values and further our recovery," Pelosi said in a tweet. "Our country needs America to show the world that our flag is still there, with liberty and justice for ALL. That is why I am running for reelection and respectfully ask for your vote."

Republicans now control the House, but just narrowly, with a 222-212 majority and one vacancy. Democrats believe they have a chance to regain power as President Joe Biden runs for a second term.

Pelosi's announcement quells any talk of retirement for the long-serving leader, who, with the honorific title of speaker emeritus,



Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., talks to The Associated Press about her visit to Ukraine a year ago and her time as the Democratic leader in the House, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

Associated Press

remains an influential lawmaker, pivotal party figure and strong fundraiser for Democrats.

It also unfolds as Washington is grappling with the sunset of a political era as an older generation of leaders, including Biden, 80, face questions about their age. This past week, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, 81, said he would finish his term as leader and senator despite

concerns about his recent health episodes.

Pelosi has long charted her own course, from her arrival in Congress as one of few women elected to the House to her tenure as one of the most powerful women in U.S. politics.

In her remarks, Pelosi said others had asked her to say longer, and she said she is also working to ensure a second term for Biden at the White House.

"We have a challenge in our country.

Our Democracy is at stake," she said, according to excerpts released of her remarks.

First elected to Congress in 1987, Pelosi made history by becoming the first female speaker in 2007, and in 2019 she regained the speaker's gavel.

Pelosi led the party through substantial legislative achievements, including

passage of the Affordable Care Act, as well as turbulent times with two impeachments of Republican President Donald Trump and the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Her announcement comes as House Republicans are preparing to launch an impeachment inquiry into Biden over the business dealings of his son, Hunter. Pelosi stepped away from the day-to-day political limelight after a younger generation of Democrats led by Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries took charge in 2023, but she remains a political force and keeps a robust schedule of public and private events.

According to a person familiar with Pelosi's thinking about her 2024 decision, Pelosi believes democracy hangs in the balance in the upcoming election as she works to reelect Biden and make Jeffries the next House speaker.

Pelosi is among the party's most prolific fundraisers for the House and key political strategists. She has said she does not intend to hover over the new Democratic House leadership team, but she and Jeffries are often seen huddling quietly on the House floor. □

# Trump hosts a \$100,000-per-person fundraiser to help Giuliani pay legal bills



Former Mayor of New York Rudy Giuliani speaks to reporters as he leaves his apartment building in New York, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Former President Donald Trump hosted a \$100,000-a-plate fundraiser for former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani at his Bedminster, New Jersey, golf club as Giuliani struggles to pay his mounting legal bills.

Giuliani, a longtime Trump ally who also served as the fellow Republican's lawyer, is facing a barrage of legal fees, fines, sanctions and damages related to his work helping Trump try to overturn the 2020 election and other cases. He was indicted last month along with Trump and 17 others

in Georgia for what Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis has described as a wide-ranging conspiracy to subvert the will of the voters after Trump lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

Giuliani's son, Andrew, said in a radio interview that the Thursday night event was expected to raise more than \$1 million for his father and that Trump had committed to hosting a second event at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida, later in the fall or early winter.

"So that will be very helpful," he said on WABC ra-

dio. Still, he said, "It won't be enough to get through this."

He has created a committee, the Giuliani Defense PAC, to raise funds for his father. Allies have also been soliciting checks for what they have called The Rudy Giuliani Freedom Fund.

Brian Tevis, who is representing Giuliani in Georgia, said on CNN on Thursday night that he assumed the former mayor was trying to raise "as much as possible," adding,

"And I think that they're going to need it." □



# The IRS plans to crack down on 1,600 millionaires to collect millions of dollars in back taxes

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The IRS announced on Friday it is launching an effort to aggressively pursue 1,600 millionaires and 75 large business partnerships that owe hundreds of millions of dollars in past due taxes. IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel said that with a boost in federal funding and the help of artificial intelligence tools, the agency has new means of targeting wealthy people who have “cut corners” on their taxes. “If you pay your taxes on time it should be particularly frustrating when you see that wealthy filers are not,” Werfel told reporters in a call previewing the announcement. He said 1,600 millionaires who owe at least \$250,000 each in back taxes and 75 large business partnerships that have assets of roughly \$10 billion on average are targeted for the new “compliance efforts.” Werfel said a massive hiring effort and AI research tools



Daniel Werfel testifies before the Senate Finance Committee during his confirmation hearing to be the Internal Revenue Service Commissioner, Feb. 15, 2023, in Washington.

**Associated Press**

developed by IRS employees and contractors are playing a big role in identifying wealthy tax dodgers. The agency is making an effort to showcase positive results from its burst of new funding under President Joe Biden’s Democratic

administration as Republicans in Congress look to claw back some of that money. “New tools are helping us see patterns and trends that we could not see before, and as a result, we have higher confidence

on where to look and find where large partnerships are shielding income,” he said. In July, IRS leadership said it collected \$38 million in delinquent taxes from more than 175 high-income taxpayers in the span of a few months. Now, the

agency will scale up that effort, Werfel said. “The IRS will have dozens of revenue officers focused on these high-end collection cases in fiscal year 2024,” he said. A team of academic economists and IRS researchers in 2021 found that the top 1% of U.S. income earners fail to report more than 20% of their earnings to the IRS. The newly announced tax collection effort will begin as soon as October. “We have more hiring to do,” Werfel said. “It’s going to be a very busy fall for us.” Grover Norquist, who heads the conservative Americans for Tax Reform, said the IRS’ plan to pursue high wealth individuals does not preclude the IRS from eventually pursuing middle-income Americans for audits down the road. “This power and these resources allow them to go after anyone they want,” he said. “The next step is to go after anyone they wish to target for political purposes.” □

# Supreme Court is asked to reject limits on a drug used in the most common method of abortion



Boxes of the drug mifepristone sit on a shelf at the West Alabama Women’s Center in Tuscaloosa, Ala., on March 16, 2022.

**Associated Press**

By **MARK SHERMAN**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court is being asked to reverse an appellate ruling that would cut off mail-order access to a drug used in the most com-

mon method of abortion in the United States. The case would be the first major abortion dispute decided by the Supreme Court since it overturned Roe v. Wade last year. That ruling has led to bans

on abortion at all stages of pregnancy in 15 states, with some exceptions, and once cardiac activity can be detected, which is around six weeks, in two others. In an appeal filed Friday, New York-based Danco Laboratories, the manufacturer of mifepristone, argued that federal judges should not second-guess the Food and Drug Administration’s approval of the drug or the conditions under which it is dispensed. The Biden administration also was expected to file an appeal. A federal appeals court ruling in August would revoke approval for sending the drug through the mail and would shorten, from the current 10 weeks to seven weeks, the time during

which mifepristone can be used in pregnancy. The justices previously intervened in the case in April to assure the availability of mifepristone while a challenge proceeds in the federal courts. The Supreme Court is widely expected to agree to hear the case and have the final word, probably by early summer 2024 and in the middle of presidential and congressional campaigns. In urging the justices to reverse the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, lawyers for Danco wrote, “For the women and teenage girls, health care providers, and States that depend on FDA’s actions to ensure safe and effective reproductive health care is available, this case matters tremendously.”

The appellate ruling left intact the FDA’s 23-year-old approval of mifepristone. But it would reverse changes regulators made in 2016 and 2021 that eased some conditions for administering the drug. When the high court voted in April to block any changes until a final decision, Justices Samuel Alito, the author of last year’s decision overturning Roe, and Clarence Thomas said they would have allowed some restrictions to take effect while appeals played out. Women seeking to end their pregnancies in the first 10 weeks without more invasive surgical abortion can take mifepristone, along with a second drug, misoprostol. The pills are now used in more than half of all abortions in the U.S. □



## Mali military camp is attacked a day after 49 civilians and 15 soldiers were killed in assaults

By BABA AHMED  
Associated Press

**BAMAKO, Mali (AP)** — A military camp in Mali's restive north was attacked Friday, a day after two separate assaults by al-Qaida-linked insurgents killed 49 civilians and 15 government soldiers, the military said.

"Response and evaluation in progress," the armed forces said in a brief statement about Friday's attack on a Malian military camp in the Gao region.

Thursday's attacks targeted a passenger boat near the city of Timbuktu on the Niger River and a military position in Bamba further downstream in Gao, the military junta said in a statement read on state television. It said responsibility for the attacks was claimed by JNIM, an umbrella coalition of armed groups aligned with al-Qaida. The group issued a statement Friday saying it also attacked the military camp.

The Niger River serves as an important transportation route in Mali, where roads are inadequate.

Mali is ranked the sixth least developed nation in the world, according to the United Nations human de-



This undated photograph released by the Compagnie Malienne de Navigation (COMANAV) shows their boat called Tombouctou at dock on the Niger River in Mali.

Associated Press

velopment index. Nearly half of the West African country's 22 million people live below the national poverty line. The situation is worse in rural areas where deadly jihadi attacks have threatened subsistence farming many peoples' only real option for making money.

Thursday's attack targeted a triple-decker passenger boat near the village of Zarho, about 90 kilometers

(55 miles) east of Timbuktu. The statement said the government killed about 50 assailants while responding to the attacks. It declared three days of national mourning to honor the civilians and soldiers killed in the attacks.

Malian army spokesman Souleymane Dembélé attributed the high death toll to the inability of some of the boat's passengers to swim, suggesting some

might have drowned.

"When the boat was attacked, the soldiers on board exchanged fire with the terrorists. Unfortunately, many civilians who couldn't swim jumped into the water," Dembélé told The Associated Press.

Al-Qaida-affiliated and Islamic State-linked groups have almost doubled the territory they control in Mali in less than a year, the United Nations said in a

report last month, as they take advantage of a weak government and of armed groups that signed a 2015 peace agreement.

The stalled implementation of the peace deal and sustained attacks on communities have offered the IS group and al-Qaida affiliates a chance "to re-enact the 2012 scenario," the report said.

That's the year when a military coup took place in the country and rebels in the north formed an Islamic state two months later. The extremist rebels were forced from power in the north with the help of a French-led military operation, but they moved from the arid north to more populated central Mali in 2015 and remain active.

In August 2020, Mali's president was overthrown in a coup that included an army colonel who carried out a second coup and was sworn in as president in June 2021. He developed ties to Russia's military and Russia's Wagner mercenary group whose head, Yevgeny Prigozhin, was killed in a plane crash in Russia on Aug. 23. □

## U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters say battles with tribesmen in eastern Syria that killed dozens have ended

**BEIRUT (AP)** — A U.S.-backed Syrian force declared its operations in eastern Syria completed Friday after almost two weeks of fighting with local tribesmen left dozens of people dead.

The Syrian Democratic Forces said the fighting ended with its recapture of areas in Deir el-Zour province that the Kurdish-led force had lost during the battles triggered by the militia's arrest of a rival U.S.-backed commander.

The clashes were among the worst in recent years in the region along the border with Iraq where hundreds of U.S. troops have been based since 2015 to

help in the fight against the Islamic State group.

Many feared the fighting between the rival Syrian militias that broke out on Aug. 27 would affect the efforts to combat IS. Earlier this week, the SDF took control of the areas it lost during the recent clashes.

The SDF said the fighting left 25 of its fighters dead in addition to 29 members of rival groups and tribal gunmen. It said nine civilians were also killed and accused government forces of helping to incite the violence.

The Kurdish-led force said it captured 21 fighters.

Earlier Friday, the SDF said its fighters had detained

a senior official with the Islamic State group who was in charge of financing and arming sleeper cells.

Despite the Islamic State group's defeat in Syria in March 2019, IS sleeper cells still carry out deadly attacks in Syria and in neighboring Iraq. The extremists once controlled wide areas and declared a caliphate in the two countries.

The SDF said its militia members, with the support of the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State group and the Counter Terrorism Group in Iraq's Kurdistan region, apprehended senior IS financier Abdul-Ghafour Taber al-Diab, also known as Abu Amir. □



In this photo released by Suwayda24, a protester holds a placard during a demonstration in the southern city of Sweida, Syria, Friday, Sept. 8, 2023.

Associated Press



## Cuba arrests 17 for allegedly helping recruit some of its citizens to fight for Russia in Ukraine

By **CRISTIANA MESQUITA**  
and **MILEXSY DURÁN**

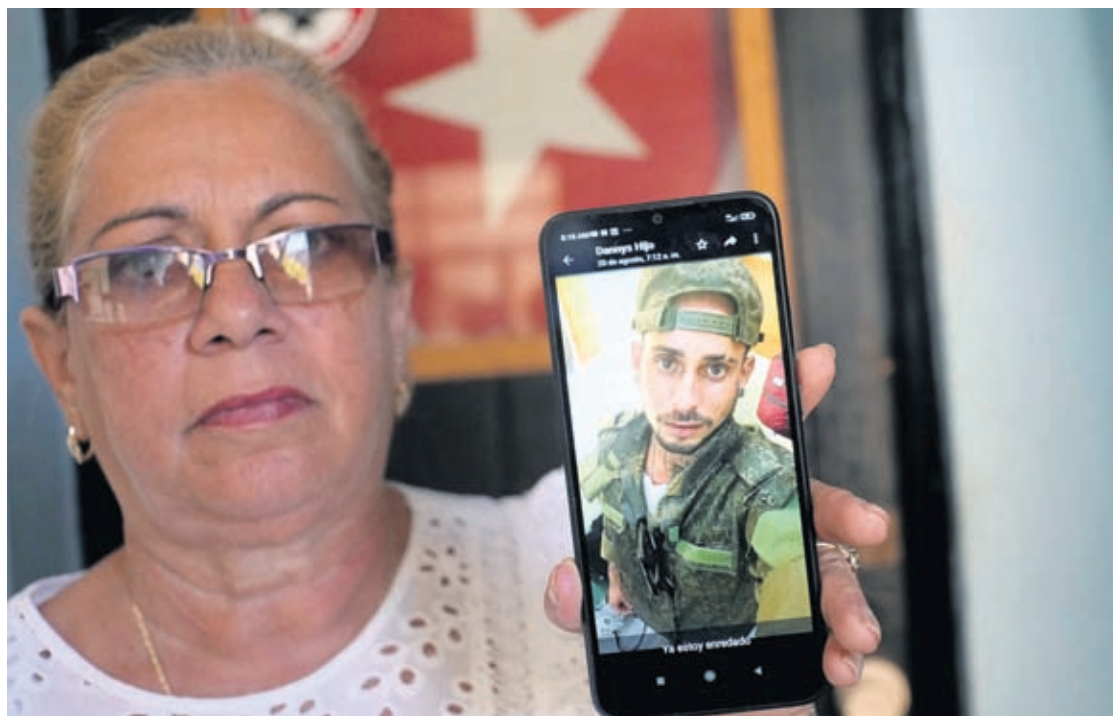
**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** — Cuban authorities have arrested 17 people in connection with what they described as a network to recruit Cuban nationals to fight for Russia in Ukraine.

The head of criminal investigations for Cuba's Interior Ministry, César Rodríguez, said late Thursday on state media that at least three of the 17 arrested are part of recruitment efforts inside the island country.

He did not identify the alleged members of the network but said they had previous criminal records. Some families started speaking up about the case on Friday, and at least one mother said that her son was promised a job in construction in Russia.

Cuba's Foreign Ministry said on Monday that the government had detected a network operating from Russia to recruit Cuban citizens living both in Russia and in Cuba to fight in Ukraine. It said authorities were working "to neutralize and dismantle" the network but gave no details.



**Marilyn Vinent holds up a photo of her son Dannys Castillo dressed in military fatigues in an Aug. 22 message from her son that reads in Spanish "I'm already entangled" during an interview at her home in Havana, Cuba, Friday, Sept. 8, 2023.**

"Cuba is not part of the war in Ukraine," the Foreign Ministry said in a news release.

Cuba and Russia are political allies and Cubans do not require a visa to travel to Russia. Many go there to study or to work.

In May 2023, a newspaper in the Russian region of Ryazan, about 100 miles (62 kilometers) southeast of

Moscow, reported from a military enlistment office there that "several citizens of the Cuba Republic" signed up to join the army. The Ryazanskiye Vedomosti newspaper quoted some Cubans as saying they were there to help Russia "complete tasks in the special military operation zone." It also said "some of them in the future would like to be-

come Russian citizens." In Havana, prosecutor José Luis Reyes told state TV that suspects are being investigated for crimes, including being a mercenary or recruiting mercenaries, and could face sentences of up to 30 years or life in prison, or even the death penalty. Marilyn Vinent, 60, said Friday that her son Dannys Castillo, 27, is one of the

Cubans recruited in Russia. At her home in Havana, she said her son and other Cubans traveled at the end of July to Russia after being promised work in a construction job. "They were all deceived," she said.

Vinent showed reporters photos of her son in her cellphone, including some of him dressed in military fatigues.

She said that her son told her he had accepted the offer to go to Russia because he wanted to economically help the family, as the island is suffering an economic crisis, with people facing shortages of some products.

"I don't know if my son is alive. We don't know anything," she said.

"What I would like is to talk to him."

Russian law allows foreign nationals to enlist in its army, after signing a contract with the Defense Ministry. Since September 2022, foreigners who have served in the Russian army for at least one year are allowed to apply for Russian citizenship in a simplified procedure, without obtaining a residency permit first. □

**Associated Press**

## A record numbers of children are on the move through Latin America and the Caribbean, UNICEF says

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**

**Associated Press**

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — Record numbers of children are making perilous journeys through Latin America and the Caribbean, often alone, and from countries as far away as Asia and Africa, the U.N. children's agency said Thursday.

UNICEF said in a Child Alert that in the past three years the proportion of children moving along the major migration routes in Latin America and the Caribbean has climbed to a record high of 25%, up from 19% in 2019. Globally, children make up 13% of people on the move and the numbers in Latin America and the Caribbean

bean, and rivaled only by Sub-Saharan Africa where children also account for 25% of the migrant population, it said.

"The driving forces behind child migration are numerous and complex, encompassing factors such as rampant gang violence, the escalating effects of climate change, and exacerbated inequalities and poverty, magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns," Gary Conille, UNICEF's Latin America and Caribbean director, told a news conference.

Conille said children in the region are migrating at an increasingly young age,

and UNICEF said those under 11 years old now account for up to 91% of youngsters at some key transit points.

At one of the most dangerous routes through the Darien jungle between Colombia and Panama, UNICEF said at least 29,000 children made the perilous crossing in 2021, an estimated 40,000 in 2022, and over 60,000 in the first eight months of 2023 — half of them under the age of five. So, 2023 already holds the record for the most child crossings, UNICEF said.

When children cross several countries and sometimes more, Conille said, "disease and injury, family

separation and abuse may plague their journeys and, even if they make it to their destination, their futures often remain at risk."

According to the alert, the number of refugee and migrant children apprehended at the U.S. southern border has also increased. □



**Migrants sit under a sign marking the Panama-Colombia border during their trek across the Darien Gap, May 9, 2023.**

**Associated Press**



## Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

**NOORD** - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous "Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."



The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!



tion, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the



sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ☐



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### How it all began

It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong

woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandise, products and employees. Supply and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics

store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandise as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mother's vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50.000 top of the line items for interior as well exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

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Do it Center Shaba is open from Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 8PM and on Sunday's from 9AM to 6PM.

For more information go to [www.doit.aw](http://www.doit.aw). ☐





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## Create museum memories

**ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.**

### Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion

Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

### Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.



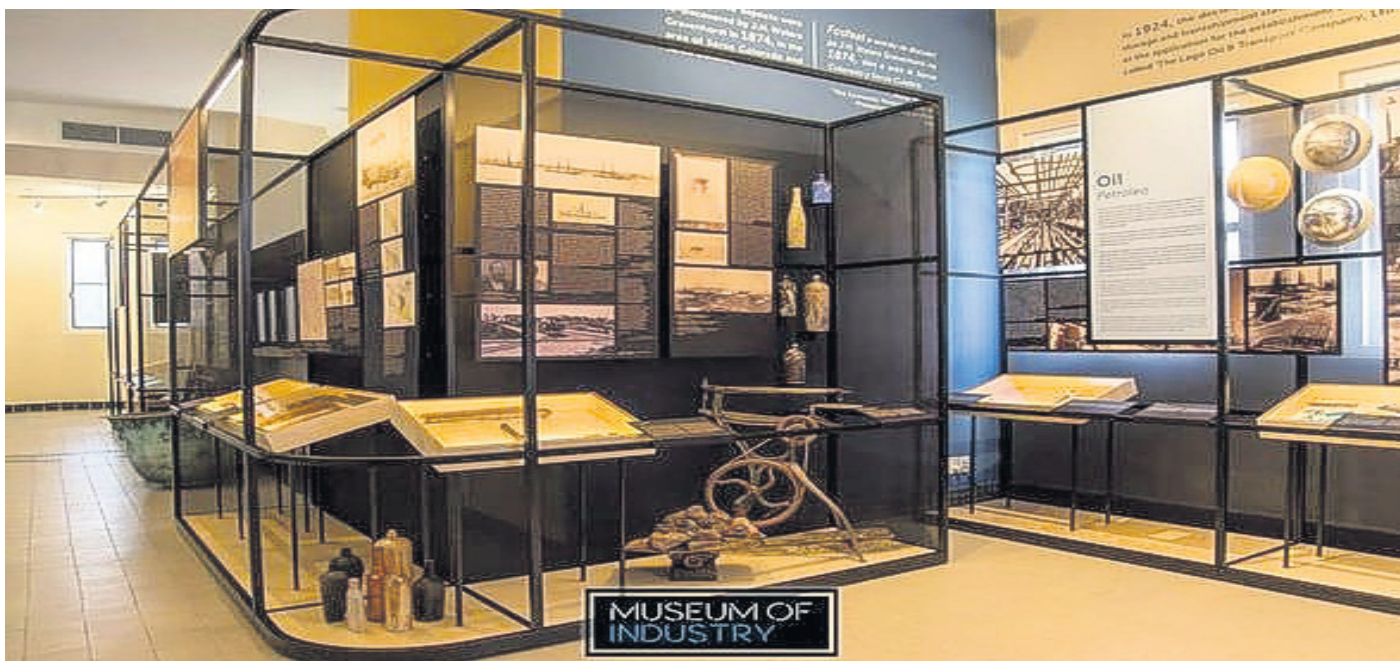
These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006,

restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □





## Episode 49: Pasco An Aruban Christmas story of faith

At the beginning of December's nights we live the magic of Pasco in Aruba through fabulous decorations of lights that glows in the streets, being best expressed by the well-known Sero Preto or Black hills dwellings in San Nicolas, but it was not always like that.

Back in the mid-1700s, there was no electricity; however the people of Aruba were waiting for Christmas with excitement and certain traditions. Weeks before Christmas, the Arubans began cleaning and painting their homes. An old custom was also to tie three aloe leaves with a bright red ribbon and hang that amulet over doors and windows to welcome the spirits of peace and harmony in each home. Typical dishes were enjoyed among the family: Christmas ham, ayaca, goat stew, stuffed turkey and olie bollen (a Dutch tradition). They drank chuculati di panda which is hot milk with peanuts mix and crème punch.

Aruba's families went to the Aurora Mass to demonstrate their Christian faith. It called 'Aurora' because it is celebrated at the dawn of the new day. The blessed dawn, the divine sun light of the East that we waited for has appeared and will no longer be hidden in our lives.

The cradle of Aruba's Christianity is found at the north coast of the island. This little chapel has a lot of history that attracts many tourists year round and for the Aruban population it's a place for veneration where they find peace and tranquility for their restless spirit.

Among the many stories of this small chapel, there is one that happened during Christmas Eve a quit long time ago and that reveals the great Christian faith of the Aruban native people.

This took place in 1760, in times where Prosecutor Miguel Alvarez ruled. Between the books of the



chapel of Alto Vista, a manuscript was obtained whose historical value gives us an idea of the religiosity that occupied the hearts of the native inhabitants of Aruba already at that time. The manuscript mentions that at the end of the year 1760 a neighbor of Alto Vista named Antonio Gregorio, a man of advanced age and a devotee became ill. He was so sick that he understood that it was his last days and felt a great spiritual discomfort because he could die without before first having received the holy sacrament given by the Church. Antonio's greatest wish was to receive the sacraments before he died and he

asked his family and friends to pray for this to happen.

Antonio's request seemed very difficult to fulfill since there was no priest at Alto Vista at the time. Days passed and his illness progressed. Days before Christmas, Antonio's neighbors and friends gathered to pray in the chapel of Alto Vista. Antonio was getting sicker and sicker he was confident that God would not abandon him and asked the Prosecutor and his friends to prepare Christmas in the best way to fulfill his request.

After eighth days of prayer there was no news that any priest could get to meet

the request of this ill stricken man. At dawn the next day a group of mounted men arrived in Alto Vista, one of them was Guillermo, an old neighbor of Alto Vista who years earlier traveled to Venezuela and returned to greet his family. As soon as the inhabitants of Alto Vista confirmed that a priest was arriving in the company of Guillermo they overjoyed with happiness and quickly ran to give the sick Antonio the great news.

The neighbors told the priest, whose name was Maximilian about Antonio's wish and accompanied him to the Sacristy where the priest was able to dress his religious hab-

its. Father Maximiliano and several neighbors went to see the sick man; the priest confessed to Antonio and promised to give him the extreme unction at dawn the next day to make it a more solemn act.

Meanwhile the Prosecutor raised two flags to announce to the inhabitants of Alto Vista that something extraordinary was happening and people began to arrive from all sides for the occasion.

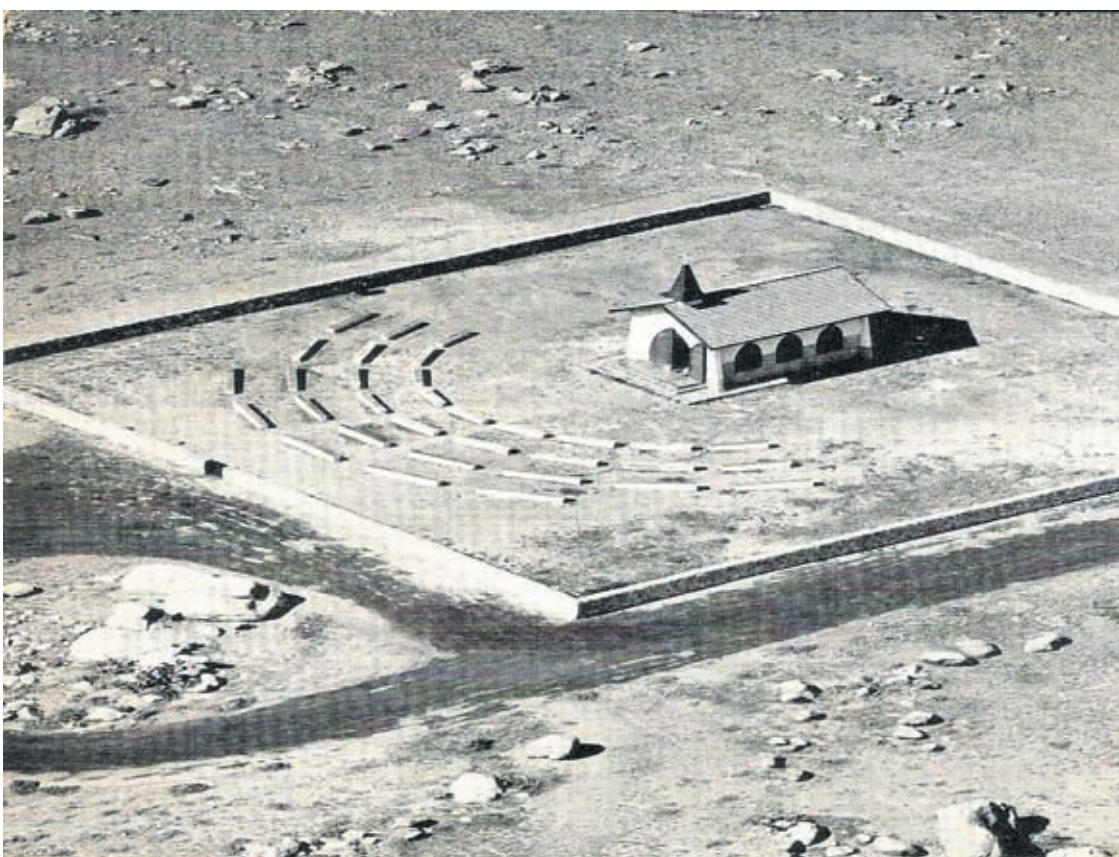
The priest greeted everyone with great cordiality, speaking to them of the importance of confession in order to receive the Holy Eucharist (Communion). At twelve o'clock at night, Father Maximiliano gave his first Mass "Misa di Aurora." At the end of the Aurora Mass, all those present lightened the way with torches and accompanied the priest to Antonio's house.

After giving the Holy Oils of the extreme unction to the sick the priest returned to the chapel to prepare the afternoon procession after a few hours someone came running to notify him that Antonio is about to die. The priest and a group of neighbors returned to the house of the dying man and kneeled beside him and began to pray.

Everyone was around the bed of the dying man and they were surprised to see how the sick man sat on the bed and with his arms outstretched he cried for mercy to God asking him to help him get to his side ... after his request Antonio died in peace on Christmas Mass day.

To get to know more over Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session which has been entertaining curious participants for decades.

**Source: Island Insight column by Etnia Nativa**





## Visit the island's hidden natural pools

**(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two “hidden” natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.**

### Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known “Cura di Turtuga (Turtle’s Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you’re up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you’ve completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It’s also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

### Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there. Because it’s still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, may-



be you won’t be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped

lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you’ll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder.

**Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours**

## Lessons from our elders:

### Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)

**(Oranjestad)—In last week’s edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.**

#### Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it’s been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea. Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially

in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

#### Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins



are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes.

**Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris**



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 37 High point

1 Sign of prestige

7 Second letter

11 Wear down

12 Manipulative one

13 Combined figure

15 Moses of the track

16 Sculpting medium

17 Sailing hazard

18 Car from a repair shop

19 China setting

21 Frozen over

22 LOL, BRB, FWIW, etc.

25 Approval

26 Tampa Bay team

27 Old counter

29 Train units

33 Full range

34 Custom

35 Striker's foe

36 Ness nemesis

38 Reluctant

39 Low digits

40 Wobble

**DOWN**

1 Crime outing

2 Dwelling

3 "Gladiator" star

4 Nova Scotian port

5 Perfect place

6 TV's Danson

7 Rhymes of rap

8 Latvia neighbor

9 New Jersey city

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Yesterday's answer

10 Blood line

16 Melo-dramatic

18 Kudrow and Bonet

20 Walk with pride

22 Snuff stuff

23 Green soybeans

24 Manhunt target

25 Worries

28 Dice, essentially

30 Cancel a mission

31 Free of suds

32 Ranch animal

34 Possess

36 Purr producer

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9-9

AXYDIBAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-9

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

OMWMFL VXRN WXRXXO

ZX EOF ZL ZYPHMKQMOX.

NYOXEF M'PMOOMH

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE IS A TIME FOR MAKING SPEECHES, AND A TIME FOR GOING TO BED. — HOMER, "ODYSSEY"

## Divorce after 60: What happens to your health benefits?

By KATE ASHFORD of Nerd-Wallet

More than 1 in 3 people who divorce in the United States are age 50 or older, and 1 in 4 are 65 or older, according to a 2022 analysis published in the Journals of Gerontology.

Divorcing as you near retirement or after you've retired comes with considerations: Are you (or your spouse) losing health insurance? If you're retired but not yet eligible for Medicare, where will you find coverage? How does being an ex-spouse affect your Medicare costs?

If you have health insurance through your own employer, not much will change, but if you're on Medicare or your partner's employer policy, you'll have to ask some questions. And you may want to help your ex make the transition, if they're on your policy. Here are the points to consider:

**DOES YOUR EMPLOYER OFFER BENEFITS?**

If you're still working, does



A couple watches the sun set from a park Saturday, July 10, 2021, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

your employer offer health coverage? If so, divorce is considered a life event that will qualify you to make changes to your benefits, such as enrolling in a health insurance plan. You have 30 days after your other coverage ends to request special plan changes.

**DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO COBRA?**

If you were covered under your ex-spouse's employer plan, you can opt in to coverage under COBRA

the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act for up to 36 months after the divorce. COBRA applies to group plans of employers that have at least 20 employees.

"You should expect the insurance cost to be substantially higher, as now you are responsible for paying the entire premium amount," says Tamara Durbin, a certified financial planner in Huntington Beach, California. □

## Update your iPhone: Apple just pushed out a significant security update



Apple iPhone 14 phones sit on display at an Apple Store at The Grove in Los Angeles, Sept. 16, 2022.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

Apple released a significant security update for iPhones and iPads Thursday to patch newly discovered security vulnerabilities in the devices' system software.

The issue was discovered by researchers at the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab, who said the software flaw was being "actively exploited" to deliver commercial spyware called Pegasus developed and sold by the Israeli company NSO Group.

Pegasus is an expensive tool typically used to target dissidents, journalists and political opponents, so ordinary users likely have little to fear. Still, Citizen Lab recommends that all users should "immediately" update their devices. □

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24/7



# The Biden administration wants more money and technology to prevent close calls between planes

By DAVID KOENIG  
AP Airlines Writer

The Biden administration said Friday it will invest more money in aviation safety and consider requiring planes to be equipped with technology designed to prevent close calls around airports.

The moves come after a string of close calls at airports around the country. Federal investigators have begun looking into seven such incidents since January, and those are only the most serious ones.

The White House said it is investing \$26 million in new safety measures, including automation to alert air traffic controllers about planes that are heading for the wrong runway. The money will also outfit more airports with radar systems that track the movement of planes on runways and taxiways.

Separately, the Federal Aviation Administration asked an internal advisory panel of experts to make recommendations on how to require systems that would alert pilots if they are lined up to land on the wrong runway or a taxiway, or when the runway they have chosen is too short.

Many new airline jets are equipped with some of this technology, but older ones are not, and neither are many private planes.

Planes typically have GPS-based systems that warn pilots if they are in danger of hitting the ground or an obstacle. Providers such as Honeywell augment those systems with more information during taxi, takeoffs and landings to reduce the risk of close calls or "runway incursions."

On most airline planes, those systems also alert pilots when they are lined up to land on the wrong runway, but the technology is not currently required, said Douglas Moss, a retired airline pilot who teaches aviation at the University of Southern California.

Newer planes also have flight-management sys-



Passenger jets are seen on the tarmac at Logan International Airport, Jan. 11, 2023, in Boston.

Associated Press

tems that include a wrong-runway alert, Moss said.

Chris Manno, an airline pilot who blogs about aviation, said limits in GPS precision can reduce the ability of the technology to warn pilots about landing on the wrong runway — especially where parallel runways are close together, as they are at San Francisco International Airport. An Air Canada jet preparing to land there in 2017 nearly crashed into other planes after mistaking a taxiway for the runway.

But being told that the runway is too short or that pilots are landing at the wrong airport "should be feasible and would be a valuable warning," Manno said. He said the FAA move "sounds like a very good idea."

Preliminary reports about close calls this year point to pilot error in some cases

and air controller mistakes in others. The NTSB said Thursday that a blocked radio transmission caused a close call in June at San Diego International Airport between Southwest and SkyWest planes.

"When it comes to that most serious type (of close calls), we have seen a noticeable increase in the first part of this year," Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg told The Associated Press last week. "We're at about 15 so far this year, and typically you would expect that number in about a (whole) calendar year." Buttigieg pointed to the FAA's "safety summit" of industry officials in March and more spending on airport infrastructure as examples of steps the agency is taking to reduce close calls.

Industry and government



officials, including the acting administrator of the FAA who convened the safety summit, have often said that the lack of a fatal crash involving a U.S. airline since 2009 proves that safety is getting better. Buttigieg said those comments don't indicate complacency.

"When you have a year with zero fatal crashes, you have to concentrate your efforts on keeping it that way by turning to anything that could have led to a problem if it hadn't been caught," he said. "We're moving toward anything that could even come close to an incident."

The FAA's associate administrator for safety, David Boulter, said in a letter Friday to the advisory panel on rulemaking that alerting technologies "are only part of the solution" to avoiding close calls. He said more consideration needs to be given to "human factors."



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# There will be no gold for the USA at the Basketball World Cup, after 113-111 loss to Germany

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Basketball Writer

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —

There will be no gold medal for the U.S. at this World Cup. And for the second consecutive time in FIBA's biggest tournament, there might not be any medal at all for the Americans.

Instead, it's Germany on the cusp of a world title.

Andreas Obst scored 24 points, Franz Wagner added 22 and Germany scored more points than any team ever has against a USA Basketball team featuring NBA players earning a 113-111 win in the World Cup semifinals on Friday night.

"This team is very worthy of winning a championship," U.S. coach Steve Kerr said. "And we just didn't get it done."

No, it didn't, and now questions will fly once again. USA Basketball has been talking for years about how the continuity of top international teams has closed what was once a sizable gap between the Americans and the rest of the world. The U.S. has won the last four Olympic titles, but now it's two straight World Cups with no gold for the winningest program on the planet.



Germany guard Andreas Obst lays on the ground as teammates celebrates after winning against the United States in a Basketball World Cup semi final game in Manila, Philippines, Friday, Sept. 8, 2023.

"Terrible," U.S. guard and captain Jalen Brunson said. "Plain and simple."

Germany the last unbeaten team left in the tournament at 7-0 will play Serbia on Sunday (8:40 a.m. EDT) for the World Cup title. Serbia beat Canada in the first semifinal, getting to its second World Cup final in the last three tournaments; it lost 129-92 to the U.S. in the 2014 championship game.

Canada will play the U.S. for bronze Sunday (4:40 a.m. EDT).

Obst hit the shot of the night, a 3-pointer with 1:15 left to put Germany up by four and just about snuff out a last-ditch U.S. rally. Germany led for 30 of the game's 40 minutes, the U.S. led for about 4 1/2, and there was little question who was controlling play much of the way.

"It's a special group," Germany coach Gordie Herbert said after his team made the World Cup final for the first time. "The way we played, the way we played together, we stuck together when things got tough and we had players who made some huge plays. One more to go." The U.S., down by 10 midway through the fourth, nearly pulled off a come-

back, getting within one point on two separate occasions in the final minutes. But the Americans never got the lead, and it was the Germans jumping and hugging as time expired.

"We knew the task at hand, and that was to go win," U.S. guard Austin Reaves said. "And we didn't do that."

Anthony Edwards scored 23 points for the U.S. (5-2), which got 21 from Reaves, 17 from Mikal Bridges and 15 from Brunson. The Americans shot 58% but let Germany shoot 58% as well, and that was the ultimate undoing.

"If you give up 113 points in a 40-minute game, you're not going to win many of those," Reaves said.

The previous high for points allowed by a U.S. men's team in the Olympics or World Cup in the era when NBA players could be used going back to 1992 was 110. And that was earlier in this tournament, against Lithuania, which also was a U.S. loss. That loss didn't doom the Americans' gold-medal hopes. This one did.

"We weren't ever able to make them feel us defensively," Kerr said. □

Associated Press

## Ingebrigtsen smashes 2,000-meter world record at Brussels Diamond League meet



Jakob Ingebrigtsen from Norway poses next to a score board after winning the 2000m men event in a new world record time during the Diamond League Memorial Van Damme athletics event at the King Baudouin stadium, Brussels, Friday, Sept. 8, 2023. The new world record time is 4:43:13.

Associated Press

Olympic 1,500-meter champion Jakob Ingebrigtsen smashed a 24-year-old world record in the rarely run 2,000 meters by more than a second on Friday.

The Norwegian finished in 4 minutes, 43.13 seconds at a Diamond League meet in Brussels.

Making his first appearance since last month's world championships, the 22-year-old Norwegian improved the previous mark of 4:44.79 set in 1999 by Moroccan great Hicham El Guerrouj.

"It's always fun to break a record but, to be honest,

it wasn't difficult for me to break this one," Ingebrigtsen said.

The 2,000 is not part of the Olympics Games program. Also, Jamaica sprint ace Shericka Jackson failed in her attempt at the women's 200 world record set 35 years ago by Florence Griffith-Joyner.

Jackson, the reigning world champion, clocked 21.48. Griffith-Joyner's mark of 21.34 was set at the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

Jackson got off to a fast start and never looked back to outclass her rivals. Anthonique Strachan was

a distant runner-up, with a time of 22.31, with American Jenna Prandini completing the podium in 22.47. Originally a 400 specialist, Jackson has been focusing on sprint in recent years. She won Olympic 100 bronze and 4x100m relay gold at the Tokyo Olympics and has been excelling in the 200.

The 29-year-old athlete claimed gold in the 200 at the 2022 worlds and retained her title last month in Budapest, Hungary, when she posted a time of 21.41 seconds, a scant .07 off the world record. □



# U.S. Open finalist Coco Gauff faces Aryna Sabalenka for the title

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Ever since Coco Gauff announced her arrival with a remarkable Grand Slam debut at age 15, she's been in the spotlight. Just about everyone in tennis recognized her talent, her smarts, her drive, her ability to step up on big stages. Just about everyone, it seemed, was absolutely sure she belonged at the top of the game. Everyone, perhaps, except Gauff herself. Even as victories accumulated, including the two biggest titles of her career last month in the run-up to the U.S. Open, she would wonder whether she just happened to catch opponents on a bad day.

Look at her now. Even Gauff is starting to really believe. How could she not? The 19-year-old from Florida is one victory away from her first major championship and Gauff will have 23,000 or so of her closest friends backing her in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Saturday when she meets Aryna Sabalenka, a 25-year-old from Belarus, in the final at Flushing Meadows.

"It's still definitely a part of me, but I do think I'm giving myself more credit," Gauff said Thursday night after beating Karolina Muchova 6-4, 7-5 on her sixth match point in a semifinal interrupted for 50 minutes in the second set



Coco Gauff, of the United States, reacts after defeating Karolina Muchova, of the Czech Republic, during the women's singles semifinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023, in New York.

by protesters concerned about the role of fossil fuels in climate change. "And speaking things into existence is real. I've been trying to speak more positively of myself and actually telling myself that I'm a great player."

She carries a career-best, 11-match unbeaten streak into Saturday. It will be the second Slam singles final for both No. 6 seed Gauff and No. 2 seed Sabalenka, who eliminated Madison Keys of the United States 0-6, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (10-5) in the other semifinal.

There is no doubt which player will hear more partisan support in Ashe. The

loud crowds have been backing Gauff all tournament their harsh treatment made first-round opponent Laura Siegemund of Germany cry afterward and Sabalenka spoke after defeating Keys about how taking on an American in America isn't easy.

"I'm still hoping that probably some of them will be supporting me. Will be just a little bit," Sabalenka said with a laugh. "Just sometimes, please. Please!" Gauff was the runner-up to Iga Swiatek at the 2022 French Open. Sabalenka won the Australian Open in January; she is 23-2 in major tournaments this season

and will replace Swiatek at No. 1 in the WTA rankings on Monday, regardless of what happens on Saturday. Having the experience of playing for the title at Melbourne Park "is going to help me," Sabalenka said, "because I know which kind of emotions to expect. I know how to handle them."

"I just think then I was ... relieved that I made it to a final, because so many people expected a lot of things from me. I think I just didn't really believe that I had it in me, especially at the time, playing Iga, who was on a winning streak and everything," Gauff said. "But this

time around, I have been focusing more on myself and my expectations of myself. Not going on social media or listening to people who believe that I can or believe that I can't."

Four years ago, she became the youngest qualifier in Wimbledon history and beat seven-time major champion Venus Williams en route to the fourth round there. And so began the hype. More impressive results would follow. Attention grew.

But the All England Club also was the site of a real disappointment this July: Gauff exited in the first round with a loss to 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin.

In the immediate aftermath, Gauff didn't leave her hotel room for two days, ordering in meals and stewing over the setback. Her thoughts already shifted to the upcoming off-season and 2024. Yes, hard as it might be to fathom right now, she was pretty much ready to write off the hard-court segment of the calendar, including the U.S. Open. So much for that.

Gauff has won 17 of her 18 matches since then. Her game is still growing, of course. Her self-confidence, too.

"Yes, the final is an incredible achievement," she said Thursday night, "but it's something that I'm not satisfied with yet." □

Associated Press

## Brown and Langenbrunner highlight the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame's class of 2023

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)** — Former NHL players Dustin Brown and Jamie Langenbrunner highlight the 2023 U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame class unveiled Friday by USA Hockey.

Longtime executive Brian Burke, women's star Katie King Crowley and official Brian Murphy also are being inducted into the hall at a ceremony Dec. 6 in Boston.

"It's an amazing class and a group that truly reflects extraordinary," USA Hockey President Mike Trimboli said.

"Their accomplishments are varied and far-reaching, and the positive impact they've had on the game — and will continue to have — will no doubt benefit generations to come."

Brown in 2012 became the second American captain to hoist the Stanley Cup when the Los Angeles Kings won it for the first time, and he did it again in 2014. Earlier this year, the team put a statue of Brown outside of its arena and retired his No. 23 to the rafters.

Langenbrunner also won

the Cup twice, in 1999 with Dallas and 2003 with New Jersey. He was a teammate of Brown's at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics when the U.S. won the silver medal.

King Crowley helped the U.S. win gold in 1998 in Nagano at the first Olympics with women's hockey. She has a silver medal from 2002 in Salt Lake City and a bronze from 2006 in Torino, and her 14 goals at the Olympics are tied for the most among U.S. national team players.



Los Angeles Kings right wing Dustin Brown (23) holds up the Stanley Cup after the Kings defeated the New Jersey Devils 6-1 in Game 6 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup finals in Los Angeles, June 11, 2012.

Associated Press

Burke's vast career in hockey included time as an agent and a Stanley Cup championship with Anaheim as the Ducks general manager in 2007. He was

GM of the 2010 silver-medal-winning U.S. Olympic team and has also served in that role and as president of hockey operations for several U.S. clubs. □



# Weekly SPECIALS



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